



March 13, 2013

**From:** Michigan Farmers Market Association  
Donna McClurkan & Scott Harvey, Policy Committee Co-Chairs  
480 Wilson Road, Room 172  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

**To:** Representative Tory Rocca  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**CC:** Kevin Besey, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Linda Jones, Executive Director, Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council  
Peter Wills, Chief of Staff, Office of State Senator Geoff Hansen

**RE: Wine sales at Michigan Farmers' Markets, SB 79**

The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) is a statewide member-based association that represents more than 300 Michigan farmers markets, farmers and vendors. We support SB 79 which would allow the sampling and sale of wine at farmers' markets.

MIFMA supports this legislation for the following reasons:

- Michigan's wine industry is one of the strongest sectors of our economy; farmers market access will provide growth opportunities for aspiring, small wineries
- Many of Michigan's beverage manufacturers use fruit, hops and grains grown in Michigan; connecting small producers directly with consumers at farmers' markets promotes our rich agricultural heritage and contributes to our burgeoning agri-tourism industry.
- The application and permitting processes are clear and straightforward, with no significant burden to Michigan's farmers' markets managers or designees

Again, MIFMA supports SB 79 as this legislation is in alignment with our mission to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products.



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